



**AFRICAN AMERICAN RESOURCE ADVISORY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES
June 6, 2012**

COMMISSION MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Chiquita Eugene, Chair
Sherry Cherry
Wayne Cook
Clifford Gillard

Daryl Horton
Nelson Linder, Co-Chair
Greg Smith

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Cynthia Evans
Melodye Foust

Dusty McCormick

CALL TO ORDER—5:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45pm by Commissioner Eugene.

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Ms. Christine Garaña spoke on behalf of the Swede Hill Neighborhood concerning a presentation the Commission received in May from Mr. Sean Garretson. Ms. Garaña stated that the neighborhood was not in favor of this development due to lack of parking spaces for the planned theatre and the scale of the housing, which the neighborhood considers too dense. Ms. Garaña stated that the neighborhood was not against development, but thought this was the wrong place for this particular project.

Mr. Richard Franklin and Rev. Michael White spoke on behalf of a development planned for the Rosewood Neighborhood called Anointed Acres. Mr. Franklin and Rev. White would like support from the Commission on funneling funding for the project through a CHODO. The Commissioners asked for information on the project and the developers such as credentials, details of the project, budget, principals of the project and information on the CHODO.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE MAY 2, 2012 REGULAR MEETING.

The minutes stand as presented with the addition of lease terms under item 3-a.

3. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. **Report from Working Group concerning information request to Austin Convention and Visitor's Bureau**

Without objection, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

- b. **Reports from Commissioners on attending meetings of other City Boards and Commissions**

There were no reports.

4. NEW BUSINESS:

- a. **Presentation on programs and services of the Small Business Development Program (Vicky Valdez, Small Business Administrator, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Without objection, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

- b. **Presentation on \$8MM US Housing and Urban Development Section 108 Loan Guarantee Program to the City's Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office (Vicky Valdez, Economic Growth & Redevelopment Services Office)**

Without objection, this item was postponed until the next meeting.

- c. **Presentation, Discussion & Action: African American Cultural Heritage District Steering Committee—Activities to date, next steps, and a resolution of support for the District (Adrian Neely, African American Cultural Heritage District Steering Committee)**

Commission Greg Smith recused himself from this item due to a conflict of interest and left the dais.

Ms. Lisa Byrd, Chair of the Committee, spoke about the formation of the district and the Steering Committee. Ms. Byrd stated that the district was created due to a recommendation from the Arts, Culture & Entertainment Committee of the African American Quality of Life Initiative. The committee has been studying best practices from other districts around the country. The committee will be looking at developing a Board of Directors and ways to raise funding for project and services.

A motion to approve a resolution in support of City funding for the African American Cultural Heritage District was made by Commissioner Gillard; seconded by Commissioner Linder. Vote 6-0 with Commissioner Smith recused.

- d. **Set agenda items for future meetings, including non-substantive housekeeping matters (such as meeting dates, potential topics, and information and research requests for staff)**

The Commissioners would like items 3-a, 4-a, & 4-b above added to the July agenda. The July agenda should also include a presentation on the Khan Academy by Struan Vaz. The August agenda will include a follow up from Rev. Collins on health issues in the African American community.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:55pm.